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Tech Talk Newsletter

JANUARY 2008

From the President's Desk

This is my first article from the President's Desk as the newly elected president of CAPT. I would like to thank everyone for trusting me with this awesome responsibility. I follow in some pretty big foot steps – the Past President of CAPT, Cindy Linker, was a very dedicated, sincere President who served (and still serves) as a great mentor for me.

As Cindy talked about in her last article as President, one of the biggest obstacles and challenges facing CAPT today is member participation. We are all so busy with our jobs and home life that "one more thing" added to the plate can be overwhelming. Therefore, the Board of Directors has cut back on our activities and meetings for 2008 to give everyone a chance to regroup and perhaps find their place in the CAPT organization.

I would like to invite all of you to participate in the 2008 Meetings, Educational Institute and especially the CAPT Ten Year Anniversary celebration in July of 2008.

I know when I first started out as a Permit Technician in 1997, the newly formed CAPT organization gave me the foundation and direction to grow as a Permit Technician. I truly do not think I would have grown as I did in this profession if it were not for the CAPT organization. I would ask you to pass on your experience, expertise and just plain encouragement to other CAPT members as I was given the chance to do when I first became a Permit Technician. By attending meetings and perhaps joining a committee or becoming a board member you could influence and guide a fellow Permit Technician in ways you may never know.

In closing, I would like to say my "door" is always open. Please feel free to send me an email, call me on the phone or stop by Commerce City to say hi and offer any suggestions/concerns you might have. The only way we are going to grow as an organization is with the participation and suggestions of each and every member. I truly want to hear from you!!!

Ann Freiberg
CAPT President

2008 Colorado Chapter of the ICC Educational Institute

Monday's Class—"Creating a Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Plan"
Terrell Stripling

Tuesday-Wednesday's Class:
The Complete Permit Technician
Steve Burger

Thursday-Friday's Class:
Over the Counter Plan Review

Mark Your Calendar

March 3rd-March 7th

Marriott DTC Hotel
4900 S Syracuse Street
Denver CO
303-779-1100

Download registration form at
www.coloradochaptericc.org

CAPT 2008 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ann Freiberg, City of Commerce City

1st Vice President

Darla Brooks, Arapahoe County

2nd Vice President

Leslie Carpenter, Jefferson County

Treasurer

Kathy Dean, City of Commerce City

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Carrie Vogt, City of Golden

Stephanie Wenholz, City of Central City

Kristy Shutto, City of Wheat Ridge

Nicole Montgomery, City of Westminster

Permit Tech Spotlight

The City of Aurora is the third largest city in Colorado. Sheri Brimmer is the Permit Counter Supervisor and has been with Development Services, Building Codes Division since 1991. She currently oversees a staff of 11. The Building Codes Division has over 50 employees. With a yearly average of 84,000 inspections, 2700 plan reviews, and the issuance of approximately 10,000 permits the Building Codes Division is a fast-paced environment that Sheri finds fulfilling and challenging. The group that touches each part of the process is the Permit Technicians

and the Administrative Specialists. It is our job to keep order to it all. As technology continues to change how business is done, flexibility in the workplace is vital. Our jobs are constantly changing and evolving.



Sheri has two grown children and is in the process of redefining herself. She is a firm believer that life is a journey, not a destination and has plans of enjoying what comes along the way.



TALK OF THE TRADE



Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

Check all faucets, pipes, and toilets periodically for leaks. A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet will add up to 15 gallons of water a day, or 105 gallons a week, which adds up to 5,475 gallons of wasted water a year. A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer. Check your flapper periodically to make sure it's a tight fit. Add food coloring to your toilet tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)

Install water saving shower heads. Low-flow shower heads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less and are relatively inexpensive. Older shower heads use 5 to 7 gallons per minute.

Take shorter showers or take a bath. Simply taking shorter showers will save gallons of water. For long exposures to the water, a partially filled bath instead of a shower will use less water.

Install a 1.6 gallon low-flow toilet. Ultra-low flow toilets use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Using these could cut indoor water use by as much as 20%. Older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Using a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash will save gallons of water that are otherwise wasted.



Install high efficiency, low-flow faucet aerators. Older faucets use between 3 and 7 gallons per minute. Low-flow faucet aerators use no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute. The aerators can be attached to most existing faucets.

Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth, wash your face or hands, or shave.

This can save 3 to 7 gallons per minute.

Keep drinking water in your Refrigerator. Don't let the faucet run until the water cools down. Instead, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator, or fill quickly and use ice cubes. Running faucets waste 3 to 7 gallons of water per minute.

Don't waste rinse water. Before rinsing, put the sink stopper in place instead of running the water, and use water in sink to rinse. If you need to use the garbage disposal, release the used sink water as the disposal is turned on.

Defrost food in the refrigerator. When defrosting food, plan ahead to thaw it in the refrigerator or microwave oven instead of under running water.





TALK OF THE TRADE

Heating Safety

It's a cold winter night. You decide to use a space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, "What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?"

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not used properly. Home heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,000 home fires in 2005, according to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The cost of these fires is more than just property damage. The cost includes roughly 700 lives and roughly 1,500 injuries.

Home heating fires are largely preventable when you know the rules. The Wheat Ridge Fire Department's goal is to reduce the number of home-heating fires in our community. But we need your help. We are urging Wheat Ridge, Lakewood, and the Towns of Mountain View and Lakeside families to use extra caution this winter when heating your home.

The majority of heating fire deaths are caused by space heaters! Most heating fires are caused by creosote build-up in the chimney.

To help keep our community safe and warm this season, Wheat Ridge Fire Department recommends that you follow these guidelines:

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home - when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- For fuel assistance, contact the National Fuel Funds Network at 1-202-824-0660.

With simple precautions, help us meet our goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter.

Douglas J. Saba, Fire Marshal
Wheat Ridge Fire Protection District
www.wrfire.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Kristy Shutto, City of Wheat Ridge, on your promotion to Property Inspector.



PERMIT TECHNICIAN AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT by Cindy Linker

The International Code Council (ICC) recently created an Ad Hoc Committee to review the needs of permit technicians and how ICC can better serve them. John Darnall, ICC Board of Directors, is the Committee Chair and Laura Scott, Vice President Chapter Relations, is the Staff Liaison. Permit Technicians from Florida, Canada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, Texas, Washington, North Dakota, Ohio and Kansas make up the remaining members. Marlene Manzanares and Cindy Linker will represent Colorado.

The Purpose and Objectives of the committee include:

1. Review the current certification to determine if it is meeting the needs of permit technicians and whether additional certifications are needed.

2. Review current training offerings and explore if additional training opportunities are needed.
3. Review ways to raise the awareness of what permit technicians do and encourage new permit technicians to become certified.
4. Review ways to recruit new ICC members and chapter members.
5. Promote new permit technicians chapters.

This working group will have two face-to-face meetings with the remainder of the committee work to be accomplished by conference call. Members of the team traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, November 8-9, 2007 for their first meeting. The panel's goal is to complete their work and file a report with the ICC Board of Directors by May 2008.

During the meeting in Missouri, three work groups were created and included Certification, Needs of Permit Technicians and How ICC Can Assist and Training. Committee leaders were selected to head these groups and the remaining members were divided equally allowing individual discussions to take place.

In closing, the time spent was extremely successful. This committee developed a clear vision of what to bring forward to the ICC Board of Directors. With that in mind, the teams will continue to interact amongst themselves moving forward with the established mission until the next face to face meeting in early spring.

The Colorado Association of Permit Technicians will continue to keep its members apprised of the committee's progress.

CONNECTING TO CUSTOMERS

Barbara Trudel is a CAPT member and works for the Douglas County Building Division. Douglas County's website contains great videos on their "Connecting to Citizens" page so you can meet all of their employees. Visit their website at <http://www.douglas.co.us/community/building> and watch them all! Here is the text portion from Barbara's video:

Hi, my name is Barbara Trudel and I am the Administrative and Business Resource Manager for the Building Division.

My Staff and I are here to help you from the start to finish of the permitting process, whether it is questions about Permits, Elevators, obtaining building records or Contractor Registration requirements we are here to assist you via this website, in person or by calling into us.

On the left side of this screen you will see the Help Me With Column. From this menu you can print applications and calculate fees prior to your arrival at our office. At the time your permit is issued, Staff will assist you with the requirements related to scheduling of inspections and answer any questions that you may have.

Under the Help Me With Column, is On-Line Services. From this menu, you can schedule inspections, check permit status as well as verify Contractor Licensing.

As an additional service, you may contact the Building Division Code Desk at 303.660.7497. There you may speak with a Code Specialist who can answer your code related questions.

My Staff and I look forward to assisting you with your building project in unincorporated Douglas County.



**to renew your
membership dues for
2008!**

JUST FOR FUN

Crickets are sensitive to changes in air temperature, and chirp at faster rates as the temperature rises. If you've a mind to, it is possible to use the chirps of the cricket common throughout the North America to gauge temperature. To get a rough estimate of the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and then add 37. The number you get will be an approximation of the outside temperature. This formula is said to be accurate within one degree. A variation is to count the chirps in 13 seconds, and add 40.



CODES FORUM 2008

February 17—March 1

Palm Springs, California, will be the host city for this year's Codes Forum. Hearings will take place at the Palm Springs Convention Center with housing offered at the Wyndham Palm Springs, Hyatt Regency Suites Palm Springs and the Hilton Palm Springs all located within three blocks of the Palm Springs Convention Center.

<http://cf.iccsafe.org/2008>



**THANK YOU 2007 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING
LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO CAPT!**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS..... CAPT 1998-2008

WWW.COCAPT.COM

REMINDER job openings can be posted on the CAPT Web Site. Email the job description to lcarpent@jeffco.us when the job opens and it will be posted on the CAPT Web Site until after the closing date.

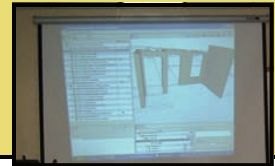
Meeting Highlights

November's meeting started off with the annual business meeting, Cindy Linker, presiding. Many subjects were covered including the passing of updates to the CAPT bylaws and an introduction of the 2008 CAPT slate of Officers. Cindy presented gift cards to 2007 Officers and Board members as well as members who served on a committee.

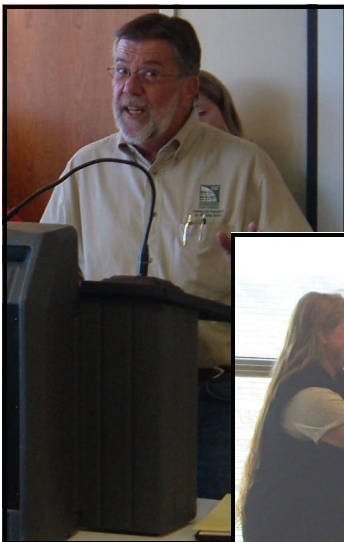
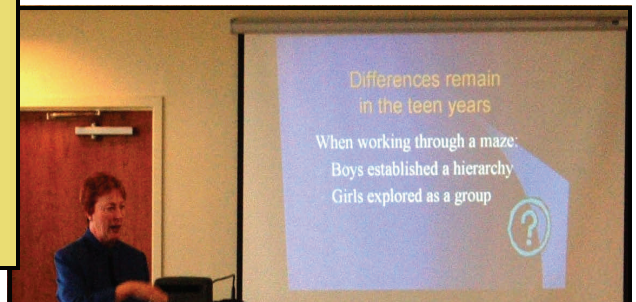
This was Cindy's final role as CAPT President. The Board of Directors would like to thank Cindy for her incredible service to CAPT in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Cindy accomplished many important goals in her role as President including a Policy and Procedures manual that will be used for years to come.



Becky Baker, CBO of Jefferson County was next to take the limelight and presented a beneficial power point presentation on SMARTCodes. SMARTCodes is a software program that enables plans to be interactive with digital blue prints putting electronic submittal in the future.



Susan Thornton, columnist for the Denver Post, presented "How Men and Women Communicate—or Don't—and How You Can Improve Your Communication with the Opposite Sex". We learned how male/female brains develop differently causing miscommunication.



CAPT's ICC liason, Gerry George, joined us in the afternoon for an update on ICC happenings, then swore in the 2008 Officers and Board of Directors. Thank you Gerry for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend the annual meeting.











CAPT Library



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

As of January 2007, examinations based on the International Codes will be changed to the 2006 Editions. "You Can Build It" will be replaced with "Basic Code Enforcement."

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT TO CAPT MEMBERS:

-  2006 International Building Code
-  2006 International Zoning Code
-  2002 Legal Aspects of Code Administration
-  2002 Legal Aspects Workbook
-  Basic Code Enforcement
-  VHS Video/World Trade Center: A Modern Marvel (1973-2001)
-  VHS Video/The Quiet Heroes
-  DVD People Helping People

Contact::

Leslie Carpenter at lcarpent@jeffco.us
or 303-271-8287 if you would like to
check out materials from the library.

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
2006 IZC
2002 Legal Aspects
Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing

Additional Study Material

2006 Permit Technician Study Companion
ICC Campus Online Course

Exam Details and Fees

\$170.00 computerized
60 multiple-choice questions—
Open Book—2 hour limit
General Administration 39%
Legal Aspects 22%
Plans and Documents 25%
Zoning and Site Development 14%

<http://www.iccsafe.org/certification>

A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains it's original dimensions.
Anonymous

Chapter Information



Colorado Chapter of the ICC Meeting Announcement

Date: February 1, 2008

Location: City and County of Broomfield

Visit www.coloradochaptericc.org for meeting agenda, map and information.



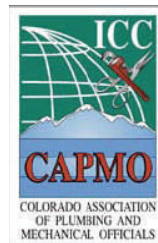
Fire Marshal's Association of Colorado

Doug Hall
President

303.430.2400

dhall@ci.westminster.co.us

www.co-fmac.org



Colorado Association of Plumbing And Mechanical Officials

Sam Dardano
President

(303) 441-4283

dardanos@ci.boulder.co.us

Next meeting January 17, 2008
Jefferson County

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Web address: www.iccsafe.org

International Code Campus:

www.icccampus.org

ICC Regional Office

Jason vonWeller

Regional Manager, Government Relations

888-422-7233



eNews - The International Code Council's award-winning electronic newsletter, distributed monthly, keeps members and interested parties up to date with International Code Council programs and relevant industry activities. Read the current issue at www.iccsafe.org/news

CAPT is an official Chapter of the International Code Council.